

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 IO-13 RSR-01 /141 W

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P 131000Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3579

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI HIGHJACKING OF
AIRLINER

1. HEADLINES AND MAJOR STORIES GENERALLY DEAL WITH BEIRUT
AIRLINER HIGHJACKING. VIRTUALLY ALL HEADLINES AUGUST 12
SCORE ISRAEL FOR ITS "CRIMINAL ACT." SEVERAL SUGGEST
POSSIBILITY OF RETRIBUTION, AND SOME LINK US WITH INCIDENT
THROUGH US' POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF ISRAEL,
WHICH HAS PERMITTED ISRAEL TO ACT UNHINDERED AND "WITHOUT
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COMPUNCTION." NOTE OF REASON IS ADDED BY AHARAM'S STRATEGIC

STUDIES CENTER WRITER WHO STATES THAT, RATHER THAN REACTING QUICKLY TO HIGHJACKING INCIDENT, ARABS SHOULD LET FULL IMPACT TAKE HOLD ON WORLD OPINION. AUGUST 13 AHRAH EXPRESSSES HOPE THAT US MAY NOW RECOGNIZE RESULTS OF ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, WHICH IS CONSIDERED A US DEFIANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES.

2. AUGUST 12 PRESS CONTAINED FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY UNNAMED "RESPONSIBLE SOURCE:"

QUOTE: BY THIS CRIMINAL ACTION ISRAEL HAS COMMITTED AN ACT OF AIR PIRACY WHICH THREATENS THE SECURITY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN MIDDLE EASTERN SKIES. THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF ITS BEHAVIOR AND ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IT WAS NOT DETERRED FROM THESE BY THE CONDEMNATION OF WORLD OPINION OF (ISRAEL'S) APPALLING CRIME WHEN IT SHOT DOWN A LIBYAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT ABOVE SINAI AND KILLED ITS CIVILIAN PASSENGERS. THE RESPONSIBLE SOURCE MENTIONED THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS IN ACTS OF AIR PIRACY GIVES NEW DIMENSION TO THIS ACTIVITY, INsofar AS ALL OTHER STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY ALSO UNDERTAKE SIMILAR BEHAVIOR AGAINST ISRAELI CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. (THE SOURCE) SAID THAT THIS WOULD CREATE A TYPE OF CONFUSION AND CHAOS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS AREA OF THE WORLD. END QUOTE.

3. AUGUST 12 PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT CHAIRMAN OF ARAB CIVIL AIR ORGANIZATION HAKIM SENT MESSAGE TO ICAO DEMANDING EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM ICAO. HAKIM REPORTEDLY SENT OTHER MESSAGES TO AFRICAN CIVIL AIR ORGANIZATION AND EUROPEAN CIVIL AIR ORGANIZATION ASKING THEIR SUPPORT FOR ARAB POSITION DURING ICAO ROME MEETING AUGUST 28.

4. AS OF MORNING AGUST 13, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL AND ATTRIBUTABLE GOE POSITION ON MATTER.
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